

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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R 140605Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8347

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONGEN BOMBAY

AMCONGEN CALCUTTA

AMCONGEN MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13523

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN EXPRESS

REF: A. NEW DELHI 13247; B. NEW DELHI 12092

1. RUMORS IN PARAGRAPH THREE REFTEL NOW APPEAR TO HAVE FIMED AND WE UNDERSTAND PUBLISHER GOENKA HAS AGREED TO THE FORMATION OF A THREE-MAN COMMISSION WHICH WILL NOW PROCEED TO DISMISS AND/OR SHIFT ABOUT VARIOUS EDITORS ON THE INDIAN EXPRESS.

2. COMMISSION IS SAID TO CONSIST OF MANAGING DIRECTOR GOENKA, K.K. BIRLA, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS AND HINDUSTAN TIMES BOARDS AND A FIRM FOLLOWER OF THE GOVERNMENT LINE, AND KAMAL NATH, A PUNJABI BUSINESSMAN WHO IS A CLASSMATE OF SANJAY GANDHI AND IS HIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AT THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT: AS PREDICTED IN REFTEL B, FINANCIAL PRESSURE CAUSED BY CENSORS DELAYING TACTICS AND WITHDRAWAL OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING HAS PROVED TOO MUCH OF A BURDEN FOR GOENKA. THE EDITOR OF THE EXPRESS V.K. NARASIMHAN AND THE DEPUTY EDITOR AJIT BHATTACHARJEE ARE SENIOR
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EDITORS SURE TO BE RELEASED. NEWS EDITOR KULDIP NAYAR

HAS REPORTEDLY "MADE HIS PEACE" WITH SANJAY.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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